

# The FEB 6 1991 Reactor

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## Which are outstanding?

What do you think is Pacifica's most architecturally distinctive building? Which local building is most likely to last for centuries and to be admired during most of its lifetime?

Whatever that building is, it is not likely to be a tract home or other piece of wooden construction. The tract homes of Andy Oddstad will probably not last 100 years. Neither are they candidates for architectural awards. The expected life, according to the builder, is 75 years. What with coastal weathering, dry rot and termites, who can tell? Most of the barns and farm houses of the 19th century and early 20th century are gone, victims of changing tastes and the ravages of time.

The former church used by the Spindrift Players in Oddstad Park is unlikely to outlast the Linda Mar ranchers nearby. The school buildings in town, none of them particularly distinguished in architecture, are unlikely candidates.

The Community Center, that solid concrete monolith at the foot of Crespi, may outlast us all, including San Pedro Rock, but an architectural masterpiece it's not.

The Sharp Park Golf Course clubhouse, built in the early 1930s to the design of a well known San Francisco architect, has many architectural virtues. It's certainly in the running.

The Little Brown Church, now the police department, and the old San Pedro School, now City Hall, are distinctive and unique examples, but like most wooden construction, they are unlikely to last another century unscathed.

On the other hand the old McCloskey Castle may be here after the end of the next Ice Age. It is a distinguished piece of architecture, built to outlast earthquakes and centuries. Though the McCloskey family lived there only seven or eight years, and though it gained an unsavory reputation during its youth, the castle is an outrageously delightful piece of construction. It's solid as the rock of Gibraltar. Sam Mazza has preserved and enhanced it.

I could wish the Planning Commission had had better judgment and not allowed San Quentin South, the apartment house on Talbot which forms part of the hillside viewshed, to compete with the castle's commanding views of the ocean and Salada Beach. Those apartments should not exist.

The castle would be an outstanding feature of any community's architecture. In Pacifica, with its heritage of cookie cutter tract homes, it is even more of a unique treasure.

Your taste and judgment may differ from mine. What local building would you nominate as one of Pacifica's most outstanding? Say in the top 10. Let me know your favorites. Include buildings out of the past, if you remember any that you wish were still with us to enjoy.